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ABSTRACT

This book is the story of school reform in Houston, Texas, where student achievement has risen, the dropout rate has been reduced, and administrative costs have dropped. This first-person account, written by a participant in the successful reform process, outlines lessons for urban school reform from the Houston experience. The chapters are: (1) "The Battle for 'Beliefs and Visions'"; (2) "Empowering Houston's Schools"; (3) "The Great 32 Percent Tax Increase"; (4) "Neighborhood Wars"; (5) "The Long, Bumpy Road to Accountable Schools"; (6) "Some Accountability for Employees"; (7) "The Wonderful Cacophony of a Free People Disagreeing"; (8) "Decentralizing the School District"; (9) "Improving District Operations"; (10) "The Demise of the Reform Board"; (11) "The Voters Determine the Future of HISD"; (12) "Stop HISD Bonds"; (13) "228 Ways To Save a Bundle"; (14) "A New Beginning for HISD"; and (15) "Lessons from Houston." (Contains 252 references.) (SLD)

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